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CONSUMER TIME

R-82

Household Conservation

NETWORK: NBC

DATE: January 23, 1943

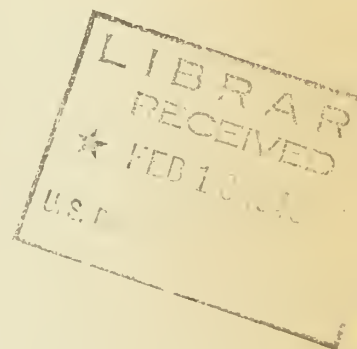
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Produced by Consumers' Counsel Division of the Department of Agriculture  
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agencies working for consumers.

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1. SOUND: CASH REGISTER . . RINGS TWICE . .
2. MAN: (SHITLY) This is CONSUMER TIME.
3. SOUND: MONEY IN THE TILL . . CLOSE DRAWER.
4. WOMAN: That's your money buying food.
5. SOUND: CASH REGISTER.
6. MAN: That's your money paying for a home.
7. SOUND: CASH REGISTER.
8. WOMAN: That's your money buying clothes.
9. MAN: Buying you a living in wartime.
10. SOUND: CASH REGISTER . . CLOSE DRAWER . . PAUSE.





11. JOHN: Hello, consumers. This is your old consumer reporter, Johnny Smith - with lots of information for you today. and here's your own neighbor, Mrs. Freyman - ready to pop the questions.
12. FREYMAN: And - my first question, Johnny ... Just what's on the docket today? You said something last week about this program covering everything from automobiles to household goods.
13. JOHN: And so it does, Mrs. Freyman. It's sort of a review of recent Government orders that particularly affect you and your wartime living in 1943. So let's jump right in and tackle the first one---
13. VOICE: (ON FILM) Government urges all car owners to have their tires inspected as soon as possible.
14. JOHN: That means you, Mrs. Freyman - and everybody else who owns a car. For A-card holders, March thirty-first is the deadline. You must have your tires inspected by then - or else.
15. FREYMAN: What's the "or else", Johnny?
16. JOHN: Well, suppose the tires now on your car wear down thin, and - say in April - you go to your local War Price and Rationing Board to ask them to help you out. If so, you may meet with something like this ---



17. SOUND: FADE IN SMALL CROWD EFFECT. QUIETS DOWN AT WORDS BELOW,  
THEN GRADUALLY FADING OUT.

18. WOMAN: (ABOVE CROWD) Stand in line, please! We can only take you one at a time. Next ---

19. FREYMAN: (FADING IN) I'd like a certificate, please - for a new tire, or a recap.

20. WOMAN: May I see your tire inspection record?

21. FREYMAN: Why, I - I haven't got it with me.

22. WOMAN: Have you had your tires inspected?

23. FREYMAN: No - not yet.

24. WOMAN: But everybody's supposed to have had that done by now. The deadline for A-card holders was March thirty-first, and people with B or C rations were supposed to have their tires inspected by the end of February. Didn't you know that?

25. FREYMAN: Oh, I heard about it, but I didn't think it was very important.

26. WOMAN: Well, it may be important enough to cut you out of getting a new tire or a recap now.

27. FREYMAN: (FADING) But listen - I --- I didn't realize ---





28. JOHN: (ON CUE) Sorry, Mrs. Freyman - but that's probably what will happen if you don't have your tires inspected by the time they should be.
29. FREYMAN: Then - Johnny - I guess I'd better get that done right away.
30. JOHN: You certainly had. And when you do - be sure that the man who inspects your tires does a good, thorough, honest job.
31. FREYMAN: I remember - you said once before - we should watch to see he really inspects them, and doesn't just glance over things that might go wrong.
32. JOHN: That's right, but don't let him talk you into a lot of car repairs - unless you're darn good and sure the car really needs them. I think we sent you a Consumer Tips Card listing the things he ought to look for --- and at.
33. FREYMAN: Yes, and the card tells how we can get more wear out of our tires too.
34. JOHN: Well, we'll send a free copy of that Tips card to **any** of our listeners who haven't already got one. But I'll say more about that later in the program. Right now, here's another war order ---



35. VOICE: (ON FILTER) Government announces manufacture of thousands of new ceramic fireplace grates.
36. JOHN: So if you have a shallow fireplace that you haven't been able to use for lack of grates, you can now build a fire in it and make your house warmer.
37. FREYMAN: Grand! But what do you mean by "ceramics"? Are these grates like pottery?
38. JOHN: More like heavy tile. They're made of high-grade fire clay.
39. FREYMAN: And we can burn coal in them?
40. JOHN: Coal, charcoal, or wood - whatever you like. And speaking of coal, here's another item of interest ---
41. VOICE: (FILTER) Government rations new coal heating stoves.
42. JOHN: Now there's an old-fashioned bit of news for 1943.
43. FREYMAN: You mean those real old-fashioned coal stoves - with the glass windows?
44. JOHN: Well, they may not look just the same today, but I'll bet they feel just as good. We used to have one in the parlor back on the farm, when I was a boy. I remember Mom calling me in the morning ---
45. MOTHER: (OFF, CALLING) Joh-neeeeeee!



46. JOHN: (YOUNGER VOICE, SLEEPILY) Huh? (Yawns)
47. MOTHER: Come on - get up! Breakfast's almost ready.
48. JOHN: (GRUNTING) Mmmmm. (THEM, IN ADULT VOICE) And I'd snuggle down deeper under that pile of quilts, 'cause I knew how cold it was outside of them. Mom always kept the bedroom door closed - to save the heat for the rest of the house, where it was more needed. Bit I couldn't stay in bed long, 'cause ---
49. SOUND: DOOR OPENS.
50. MOTHER: (FADING IN) Come on, son - right away! It's nice and warm in behind the stove.
51. JOHN: So I'd make a dash for the parlor and dress there in back of the stove. Boy, did it feel good!
52. FREYMAN: Sounds as if we could use a bit of that old-fashionedness today, Johnny.
53. JOHN: We certainly could. And - if you can get a purchase certificate from your local rationing board - you can use a coal heating stove.
54. FREYMAN: Well, what do we have to do to get the purchase certificate?



55. JOHN: You have to show that you're going to use this stove to save oil -- or that your present heating system is very very inadequate.
56. FREYMAN: You mean -- if I'd give up my oil burner, to help conserve the oil supply -- I could buy a coal heating stove.
57. JOHN: That's the idea. And while we're on the subject of your oil burner ----
58. FREYMAN: I know what you're going to say... that I should convert my oil burner to coal if I possibly can.
59. JOHN: You'd be a lot more certain of keeping warm this winter -- and you'd help conserve your country's oil supply, too.
60. FREYMAN: But really, Johnny, we can't change it, but I did want to get that suggestion in there for our other listeners who burn oil. If they can have their furnaces fixed to burn coal, they'd better do it right now.
61. FREYMAN: I certainly would if I could!
62. JOHN: So would I. And here's something else to think about ----
63. VOICE: (ON FILTER) Government forbids manufacture of all portable electric lamps and shades using critical materials.





64. FREYMAN: Does that mean those metal desk lamps, Johnny?.
65. JOHN: It means all lamps, Mrs. Freyman. Desk lamps - floor lamps ---
66. FREYMAN: If they use critical materials.
67. JOHN: That's it. The wooden ones will still be made.
68. FREYMAN: But what about lamp shades? Most of them have metal frames?
69. JOHN: Those are out - for the duration. And until somebody invents something else to make the frames of -- you'd better take pretty good care of the lamp shades you already have.
70. FREYMAN: But they get so dingy looking ---
71. JOHN: Do you dust them regularly?
72. FREYMAN: Of course.
73. JOHN: And wipe them off with a damp cloth.
74. FREYMAN: Well - no, I guess I've never done that.
75. JOHN: That's what the Bureau of Home Economics suggests. And they say that you can make a new shade for your old frame if you're clever.
76. FREYMAN: You mean of fabric?



77. JOHN: Yes - or heavy paper. Just cut it the same size as your old shade and fasten it on with gummed tape. You can color the shade with a little oil paint, rubbed on with a cloth - or paste pictures on it.
78. FREYMAN: Sounds like fun.
79. JOHN: It does - even to me. And here's another bit of news for you consumers ---
80. VOICE: (ON FILTER?) Government announces that a hundred and fifty thousand non-mechanical refrigerators may be produced in the first three months of 1943.
81. JOHN: Do you know what a non-mechanical refrigerator is, Mrs. Freyman?
82. FREYMAN: Well - uh - would that mean an ice-box?
83. JOHN: That's it - an ice-box - a new wartime model that doesn't take much steel. Have you ever used an ice-box?
84. FREYMAN: No, Johnny. I remember my mother used to have one, but I was too young then to have much to do with it.
85. JOHN: Then - if you should have to use one of these non-mechanical refrigerators, you'll need to know how to work it.
86. FREYMAN: But there's nothing to it, is there? You just put the ice in - and there you are.



87. JOIN: No, there's a little more to it than that. If you just put the ice in, you may find that someday ---

88. SOUND: FETT SLOSHING AROUND IN WATER.

89. FREYMAN: (NEAR MIKE, SHOUTING) David! The kitchen's flooded!

90. DAVID: (OFF) What?

91. FREYMAN: Come quick! There's water all over the floor!

92. SOUND: QUICK, HEAVY FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING. THEN FADE INTO WATER.

93. DAVID: (FADING IN) Holy cats! Stand back - away from that sink - while I take a look ---

94. FREYMAN: Do you think the pipe's broken? (PAUSE) David - what's the matter?

95. DAVID: This water isn't coming from the sink ----

96. FREYMAN: It isn't?

97. DAVID: No - it's coming from that corner - over by the ice-box.

98. FREYMAN: Are you sure?

99. DAVID: Sure. I bet I know what's the matter - your ice- box drain is clogged up. (HE LAUGHS)



100. FREYMAN: Well, I don't think it's so funny. The men who sold me that ice-box said it was in perfect condition.
101. DAVID: Well, don't blame him if you don't keep it that way.
102. FREYMAN: Huh? What do you mean?
103. DAVID: You've got to clean that drain if you expect it to work right.
104. FREYMAN: But I never had to do that with my electric refrigerator.
105. DAVID: Of course not. (CHUCKLES)
106. FREYMAN: Now what are you laughing at?
107. DAVID: Darling, it's just lucky for you that you've got an old-fashioned husband who really understands these things.
108. JOHN: (ON CUE LAUGHING) Now, I'm not saying that all refrigerators clog up and overflow, Mrs. Freyman, but it has happened. In fact it happened to me.
109. FREYMAN: Well, how would you go about cleaning that drain, Johnny?
110. JOHN: I'd remove the drain pipe and trap under the ice and wash them. You ought to do that every few weeks anyhow. And then -- once a week you should flush the drain with a pint of warm water mixed with a tablespoon of baking soda.





111. FREYMAN: A pint of warm water mixed with a tablespoon of soda.
112. JOHN: Uh-huh. The same sort of solution you use for washing the inside of your refrigerator - only stronger.
113. FREYMAN: But I've always used soap and water for washing the inside of a refrigerator.
114. JOHN: The Bureau of Home Economics doesn't advise it. They say you should use soda and warm water - one tablespoon of soda to a quart of water for washing a refrigerator. And one table spoon to a pint for flushing out the drain.
115. FREYMAN: Well! I guess there's more to taking care of a refrigerator than I thought.
116. JOHN: There's a good deal to it. And I've gotten hold of all the most important facts and put them onto a Consumers' Tips card. Directions for taking care of refrigerators.
117. FREYMAN: Both kinds of refrigerators? You see, right now I have an electric ---
118. JOHN: This card gives tips for all kinds of refrigerators --- Whether they're cooled by gas, electricity, oil, or just plain ice. It tells you how to make them last longer - give better service - save you money.
119. FREYMAN: Then I want a copy of that Tips card, Johnny - to add to my regular consumer file.



129. FREYMAN: I can use those to save oil. Get some warmth from old fireplaces that might otherwise stand idle.
130. JOHN: And - how about coal stoves?
131. FREYMAN: I can use those to save more oil. Replace my oil burner with stoves that burn coal.
132. JOHN: Good. And - let's see..... I think lamps came next ---
133. FREYMAN: Take care of the lamps - and lampshades - we have, because they won't be making any more of critical materials. Dust lampshades, and - if they're the parchment kind - wipe them off with a damp cloth. When they get too dirty - or break - recover the frames.
134. JOHN: Well, you certainly learned that lesson. Now - as to refrigerators ---
135. FREYMAN: If they're the ice-box kind, I must remember to clean the drain-pipe and flush it out. And - whatever kind they are - I should wash the inside with a solution of baking soda and warm water.
136. JOHN: Right. And do several other things that we've listed on our Consumers' Tips Card.
137. FREYMAN: In short, Johnny - to sum up today's program in one word - I'd say it's conservation.



138. JOHN: That's it - in a word. And we have a man here with us today who has made that his watchword.
- Mr. Harvey A. Anderson, Deputy Director of the Conservation Division, War Production Board. I believe that he has something to say to us about conservation.
- Mr. Anderson.
139. ANDERSON: Indeed I have, Johnny. And I'm particularly glad to be able to say it straight to this CONSUMER TIME audience, because you're the ones - you consumers - who can do more than any other group of Americans to help with conservation.
140. FREYMAN: Do you mean - specifically - conservation of war materials, Mr. Anderson?
141. ANDERSON: Well, that first, anyhow. By keeping the things you now own in good repair - by making them last for the duration - you save all the materials that would have gone into making new things for consumer use. Take that ice-box for instance.
142. FREYMAN: That wouldn't use much war material, would it, Mr. Anderson? If it's a special wartime model ---
143. ANDERSON: But what about the machines that made it? They're metal too. And the trains and trucks that carried to to the store. And all the man-hours - or woman-hours maybe now - that built it and drove it there.



144. FREYMAN: Guess I forgot about all that.
145. \_\_\_\_\_: Well, that's the sort of stuff you're conserving when you take care of the things you have, instead of buying new things. You don't only save money, but manpower - materials - factories - transportation . . . The sort of stuff that victories are made of. And the more of this stuff you can save - why, the sooner we can turn out the things we need to win the victory.
146. FREYMAN: And the peace.
147. \_\_\_\_\_: And the peace. And so I want to thank you all - every one of you consumers - for every bit of household goods you've conserved since we first got into this war... and I want to urge you to conserve every thing you possibly can between now and the time when the war's finished.
148. FREYMAN: I think I can pledge for all CONSUMER TIME listeners, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, that we'll do that.
149. \_\_\_\_\_: Yes, I feel sure we can count on you.
150. JOHN: Well, thanks for your confidence, Mr. \_\_\_\_\_. And now - to help our listeners conserve things - especially tires and refrigerators - here are these two Consumer Tips cards we're offering this week.





151. FREYMAN: With facts on how to get more wear from our tires - and just exactly what the inspector is supposed to do . . . And then a card that will help us take good care of our refrigerators - whether they're ice-boxes or the automatic kind.
152. JOHN: Right. And -- to get these two handy Tips cards for your household file - just write to CONSUMER TIME, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. Say you want the tips on tires and refrigerators - and tell us your own name and address and the call letters of your radio station.
153. FREYMAN: I'll repeat those directions - so you can jot them down. For Consumer Tips cards on tires and refrigerators - send your request to: CONSUMER TIME - Department of Agriculture - Washington, D.C. And don't forget to add your own name and address - plus the radio station over which you heard this program. . . . And what's our subject for next week, Johnny?
154. JOHN: School lunches. Do your children get a good complete lunch at noontime? The kind of a lunch that keeps them strong and healthy and full of pep? Do you know that you can get money from your Government to help you provide those lunches? Next week we'll tell you how. So - for facts on school lunches - listen to next week's ----



155. ANNOUNCER: CONSUMER TIME - presented by the Consumers' Counsel Division in the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with other Government agencies working for consumers.

Heard on today's program were: Ken Banghart, Evelyn Freyman, Helen Goodhue, Don Baker, And Mr. Harvey A. Anderson, Deputy Director, the Conservation Division, War Production Board.

Script by Jane Ashman.

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